

One of the main goals of The Ripon Society is to promote the ideas and principles that have made America great and contributed to the GOP's success. These ideas include keeping our Nation secure, keeping taxes low, and having a federal government that is smaller, smarter, and more accountable to the people.

For 60 years now, The Ripon Society has been promoting common sense policies and principles. Today, The Ripon Society tries to promote these policies and principles in several ways. Six times a year, for instance, the Society publishes a journal called The Ripon Forum, which has been called "reform-minded" by the Washington Post and is the longest running Republican journal of thought and opinion in the country.

The Ripon Society also holds a regular series of events geared around the issues of the day and the challenges facing our nation. These events include its Symposium on Leadership for senior Congressional staff members, that has been held at George Washington's historic estate at Mount Vernon since 2011.

Along with its partner organization, The Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange, The Ripon Society also holds a dinner each year at one of our Nation's Presidential Libraries, where they present Members of Congress with the Roosevelt Leadership Award. This award honors those lawmakers who embody the qualities that Theodore Roosevelt spoke of when he said: "The credit belongs to those who are in the arena, who strive valiantly . . . who at best know the triumph of high achievement; and who, at worst, if they fail, fail while daring greatly."

The Ripon Society and Franklin Center also hold a bipartisan luncheon at the end of each

year to honor the "Unsung Heroes of Capitol Hill"—that is the schedulers and executive assistants who quietly and faithfully work behind the scenes to keep the trains running on time in both the House and the Senate.

Finally, The Ripon Society and Franklin Center also hold an international policy conference each year in a foreign capital. Called the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange, the policy conference brings Republican and Democratic lawmakers together with their legislative counterparts overseas to discuss and learn more about the challenges facing America and her allies around the world.

At a time when so many groups and organizations seem to come and go in American politics, The Ripon Society has been a fixture for 60 years. I congratulate them on this achievement and wish them all the best in the years ahead.

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#### RECOGNIZING RICHARD FIERRO

#### HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 6, 2023*

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Richard Fierro, a survivor of the Club Q shooting in Colorado Springs, CO, who chose to risk his life to save others, in the face of unspeakable violence.

On the evening of November 19, 2022, Richard and his family were enjoying a drag show at Club Q—a nightclub that has long been a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community. In the blink of an eye, an enjoyable night turned deadly.

After spending 15 years as an officer in the U.S. Army, with combat deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, Richard's actions were instinctual. Except this wasn't a warzone—this was a night out with his family at a bar in his own backyard. As gunfire rang out around him, people screamed, and glass shattered, Richard's Army training kicked in. He ran toward the shooter—tackling and subduing him.

Not only did he subdue the gunman, but he also took charge and gave orders to those around him—attempting to establish some semblance of order amid the chaos. He placed tourniquets on his friends and reassured them they would be okay while he yelled to police that the shooter was down. There is no doubt in my mind that Richard's heroic actions saved countless lives.

Here in Colorado, we are all too familiar with gun violence and the devastating impact it continues to have on our communities. We should not still be in mourning when the next mass shooting occurs. We should not have to live in fear every time we step outside our homes. Yet time and time again, we are forced to rely on the bravery of unsuspecting patrons in clubs, restaurants, grocery stores, and dance studios to disarm shooters in this country.

We continue to mourn the lives lost at Club Q: Daniel Aston, Kelly Loving, Ashley Paugh, Derrick Rump, and Raymond Green Vance—the boyfriend of Richard's daughter. Any loss of life like this is senseless and heartbreaking, but in the face of tragedy and unspeakable darkness, there are always heroes who rise up and answer the call to service. It is an honor to recognize Richard's heroic actions at Club Q.